

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

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National Weather Summary November 15 - 21, 2009

Highlights: A series of cold fronts slammed into the **Pacific Northwest**, generating heavy precipitation and high winds. However, only light precipitation fell east of the **Cascades**. In **southern California** and the **Southwest**, dry weather favored cotton harvesting and other autumn fieldwork. Meanwhile on the northern Plains, unusually warm, dry conditions promoted winter wheat development and summer crop harvesting. Some rain and snow fell on the **central Plains**, but dry weather across the remainder of the **Nation's mid-section** favored harvest activities for crops such as corn, cotton, and sorghum. Farther east, wet weather returned to the **middle Mississippi Valley**, hampering corn and late-season soybean harvesting. Across the **upper Midwest**, however, fieldwork advanced with few delays. Elsewhere, scattered showers caused only minor fieldwork delays from the **Delta into the Southeast**, while late-week rain developed in the **western Gulf Coast region**. In **southern Texas**, the rain fell in areas still suffering from lingering hydrological drought. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the **Nation's northern tier from northern Montana to northern Maine**. Unusual warmth also covered much of the **Corn Belt**, where readings ranged from 2 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. In contrast, near- to below-normal temperatures prevailed from **California into the Southeast**.

Chilly conditions persisted early in the week across the **Southwest**, where daily-record lows for November 16 included 4 degrees Fahrenheit in **Springerville, Arizona**, and 7 degrees Fahrenheit in **Roosevelt, Utah**. The following day, however, record-setting warmth arrived across the **northern High Plains** and the **Northwest**. Records for November 17 reached 71 degrees Fahrenheit in **Havre, Montana**, and 67 degrees Fahrenheit in **Walla Walla, Washington**. **Havre** posted another daily-record high (65 degrees Fahrenheit) on November 20. At week's end, however, cool conditions returned to the **Far West**, where the **Oakland Airport** in **central California** registered a daily-record low of 38 degrees Fahrenheit on November 21. Farther east, **Rochester, Minnesota**, experienced its warmest November 1-21 period since 2001. During the first 3 weeks of November, **Rochester's** average temperature of 44.0 degrees Fahrenheit was more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. During the same period, **Rochester's** precipitation totaled just 0.14 inch (less than 10 percent of normal).

Heavy rain subsided by Sunday in **New England**, where **Portland, Maine** (5.03 inches on November 14), had experienced its wettest November day on record (previously, 4.70 inches on November 10, 1990). Farther west, heavy precipitation hammered the **Pacific Northwest**. Weekly rainfall totaled 14.91 inches in **Quillayute, Washington**, aided by a daily-record total of 3.31 inches on November 16. Similarly in **Oregon**, more than one-third (2.71 inches) of **Astoria's** 7.31-inch weekly total fell on November 16. Snow fell at higher elevations, with a late-week depth of 91 inches reported at **Timberline Lodge** on the slopes of **Oregon's Mt. Hood**. High winds accompanied the precipitation, resulting in a gust to 92 miles per hour on November 16 on the **Oregon coast at Cape Blanco**. Two days later, a gust to 107 miles per hour was clocked at an automated weather station in **western**

Washington's Olympic Mountains on Hurricane Ridge. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm dropped snow on parts of the **central Plains** and unwelcome rain in the **central Corn Belt**. November 13-15 snowfall totals reached 9.3 inches in **Denver, Colorado**, and 6.5 inches in **Cheyenne, Wyoming**. **Concordia, Kansas**, received a daily-record snowfall (3.5 inches) on November 16. Daily-record rainfall totals for November 16 included 1.72 inches in **St. Louis, Missouri**, and 1.53 inches in **Ottumwa, Iowa**. By November 19, heavy rain shifted into the **East**, where **Buffalo, NY** (1.49 inches), netted a daily-record sum. Toward week's end, a separate area of heavy rain developed over the **western Gulf Coast region** and drifted northeastward. On November 20, daily-record amounts in **Texas** reached 2.45 inches in both **Galveston** and **Corpus Christi**. In **Rockport, Texas**, rainfall totaled 9.94 inches in a 24-hour period on November 19-20.

Bitterly cold, dry air settled across the **Alaskan mainland**, where **Bettles** notched five daily-record lows during the week. **Bettles'** lowest reading, -47 degrees Fahrenheit, occurred on November 21. Other daily records included -20 degrees Fahrenheit (on November 17) in **King Salmon** and -38 degrees Fahrenheit (on November 20) in **McGrath**. **Alaskan** weekly temperatures averaged more than 30 degrees Fahrenheit below normal in a few locations. Snow blanketed parts of the **Aleutian Islands**, where **Cold Bay** (3.3 inches) received a daily-record amount for November 20. Farther south, heavy rain subsided in **Hawaii**, although **Hilo** (on the **Big Island**) received an additional 5.15 inches during the week. **Hilo's** November 1-21 rainfall reached 19.11 inches (174 percent of normal).

*National Weather Summary provided by USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board.
For more information, call (202) 720-2397.*

Agricultural Summary November 16 – 22, 2009

Highlights: Temperatures across much of the northern half of the country were above average during the week, while areas in California, the Southwest, and along the Gulf Coast experienced temperatures well below normal. Wet conditions continued in areas of the Pacific Northwest and returned to much of the Corn Belt and the eastern half of Texas where precipitation totals exceeded 800 percent of normal during the week.

Corn: Nationally, harvest advanced 14 points during the week leaving progress, at 68 percent, 19 points behind last year and 26 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin where producers combined 21 percent or more of their crop. Despite the active harvest pace in these States, overall progress remained over 2 weeks behind normal. Wet weather in Illinois and Missouri held the harvest pace to single digits during the week.

Soybeans: Producers had harvested 94 percent of the 2009 soybean acreage by week's end, 3 points behind both last year and the 5-year average. The most significant harvest delay was evident in Kansas where overall progress was 13 points, or over 2 weeks, behind normal.

Winter Wheat: Seeding in the 2010 winter wheat crop advanced slowly during the week. With 93 percent of the crop in the ground, progress was 5 points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in Colorado, Michigan, and Montana used over 3 days suitable for fieldwork to finish seeding their crop during the week. Emergence advanced to 84 percent complete by November 22, seven points behind last year and 6 points behind the average. Despite evidence of rapid emergence in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri during the week, overall progress remained 29 points or more behind normal in these States. Overall, 64 percent of the winter wheat crop was

reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but down slightly from last year.

Cotton: Seventy-two percent of the Nation's cotton crop was harvested by week's end, 1 point behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal in all estimating States except Arizona and Texas.

Sorghum: With three-quarters of the sorghum crop harvested, progress was 12 points behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in the central Great Plains and Missouri where 11 percent or more of the crop was combined during the week.

Other Crops: Harvest was active across much of the major peanut-producing regions, with progress advancing 10 points during the week. At 88 percent complete, harvest was 10 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay remained evident in Alabama where progress was over 1 month behind normal.

Sunflower harvest was most active in the Great Plains during the week, with producers in Kansas and the Dakotas harvesting 10 percent or more of their crop. Nationally, 80 percent of the sunflower crop was harvested by November 22, three points behind last year and 13 points behind the 5-year average.

**Corn: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	71	64	93	93
IL	60	52	94	98
IN	73	63	96	96
IA	78	59	84	94
KS	84	80	92	97
KY	98	95	100	100
MI	60	35	88	87
MN	66	43	90	96
MO	76	72	87	95
NE	65	48	80	92
NC	100	100	100	100
ND	21	8	50	83
OH	76	58	93	91
PA	71	60	84	89
SD	40	27	73	91
TN	99	98	100	100
TX	98	97	99	99
WI	59	38	81	87
18 Sts	68	54	87	94

¹ These 18 States harvested 94% of last year's corn acreage.

**Soybeans: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	91	82	97	96
IL	95	90	100	99
IN	97	93	99	98
IA	98	96	100	100
KS	83	82	93	96
KY	92	81	99	94
LA	99	96	100	100
MI	98	94	100	98
MN	97	92	100	100
MS	98	94	100	100
MO	87	83	90	94
NE	99	97	100	100
NC	53	45	54	57
ND	92	80	97	99
OH	99	97	100	98
SD	95	93	100	100
TN	87	76	98	94
WI	94	88	100	99
18 Sts	94	89	97	97

¹ These 18 States harvested 95% of last year's soybean acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	60	49	94	90
AZ	75	70	64	70
AR	81	71	100	97
CA	91	81	84	92
GA	56	44	79	81
KS	14	5	33	47
LA	96	89	99	100
MS	94	85	98	99
MO	78	69	100	94
NC	76	63	87	88
OK	44	35	54	65
SC	78	60	79	82
TN	82	59	99	95
TX	70	58	55	58
VA	67	66	80	86
15 Sts	72	60	73	75

¹ These 15 States harvested 99% of last year's cotton acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	100	100	100	100
CO	64	54	88	87
IL	81	74	90	96
KS	70	59	84	92
LA	100	100	100	100
MO	81	68	88	95
NE	68	44	75	93
NM	100	70	90	70
OK	80	68	67	78
SD	86	79	89	96
TX	77	76	91	88
11 Sts	75	68	87	90

¹ These 11 States harvested 97% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Peanuts: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	59	50	100	93
FL	96	93	99	99
GA	88	78	97	97
NC	98	90	100	100
OK	93	78	94	91
SC	100	99	100	100
TX	98	81	95	91
VA	100	100	100	100
8 Sts	88	78	98	96

¹ These 8 States harvested 98% of last year's peanut acreage.

**Sunflower: Percent Harvested,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	70	65	93	97
KS	63	53	84	91
ND	86	60	88	94
SD	79	59	70	90
4 Sts	80	59	83	93

¹ These 4 States harvested 86% of last year's sunflower acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	77	52	93	89
CA	83	70	53	44
CO	100	99	100	100
ID	100	100	100	100
IL	89	77	100	100
IN	90	85	100	99
KS	95	93	100	100
MI	100	95	100	99
MO	61	54	92	92
MT	100	99	100	100
NE	100	100	100	100
NC	61	52	72	78
OH	99	95	100	99
OK	95	93	100	98
OR	100	100	100	100
SD	100	100	100	100
TX	91	87	95	94
WA	100	100	100	100
18 Sts	93	90	98	97

¹ These 18 States planted 87% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			2004- 2008 Avg.
	Nov 22, 2009	Nov 15, 2009	Nov 22, 2008	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	47	26	81	76
CA	59	40	29	29
CO	96	94	99	100
ID	96	92	97	96
IL	67	45	98	97
IN	66	55	97	95
KS	88	82	94	96
MI	96	83	100	94
MO	44	33	74	81
MT	90	88	99	97
NE	100	100	100	100
NC	40	24	40	48
OH	81	76	100	96
OK	85	82	99	92
OR	95	82	67	83
SD	100	95	100	100
TX	80	73	85	80
WA	95	91	84	94
18 Sts	84	77	91	90

¹ These 18 States planted 87% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Crop Condition
by Percent, Selected States
Week Ending Nov 22, 2009**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	6	21	46	24	3
CA	0	0	10	55	35
CO	0	4	14	55	27
ID	0	0	19	72	9
IL	3	18	37	38	4
IN	2	4	51	39	4
KS	1	3	24	57	15
MI	1	5	25	57	12
MO	1	6	61	31	1
MT	2	5	48	42	3
NE	0	1	28	59	12
NC	6	7	25	59	3
OH	0	2	31	53	14
OK	0	1	19	49	31
OR	0	0	46	46	8
SD	0	3	23	66	8
TX	4	10	41	41	4
WA	0	3	23	62	12
18 Sts	1	5	30	51	13
Prev Wk	1	5	30	52	12
Prev Yr	2	6	27	52	13

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2008 planted acres.

Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early April through the end of November. The non-probability crop progress and condition surveys include input from more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through various stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaires on Friday or early Monday morning and submit them to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices in their States by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of when questionnaires are completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced by projections for weekend changes in progress and condition. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, significantly reducing projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories used as reporting guidelines are available on the NASS website at:

www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/National_Crop_Progress/terms_definitions/index.asp.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Field Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the *Crop Progress* report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* that is released after 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are subject to revision the following week.

Crop Progress and Condition tables expected next week:

- Corn – Harvested
- Cotton – Harvested
- Peanuts – Harvested
- Sorghum – Harvested
- Soybeans – Harvested
- Sunflowers – Harvested
- Winter Wheat – Planted, Emerged, Condition

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